



CashBox Record Ramblings

NEW YORK

Joni Mitchell's debut album is out on Reprise. Some of us have been waiting a long time for it and it's been worth the wait. A delightful LP. The cover art is a Joni Mitchell original as are the songs within . . . Joni sang a few of her songs at the press opening of Generation the other night, as did Buddy Guy, Jimi Hendrix, B. B. King, Big Brother, the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, and others . . . the opening was a bit crowded mainly because too many people invited their friends, relatives, neighbors etc. This resulted in a lot of invited guests not getting in the door. Publicist Mike



These Visitors



Stairsteps



Mitch Ryder



Candy Graham



Old Christy Minstrels



Lyn Roman

Goldstein who threw the bash, had this to say (in part): "At 11pm the place was like Cheetah when it first opened; at 11:15 I went next door to a \$1.19 steak house because it was the only place I could find a seat; at 11:30 the fire marshall said, 'Close the doors'; at 11:45 I went to a bar, because the fire marshall wouldn't even let me back in. What can I say . . . but come to our second opening."

Linda Ronstadt and the Stone Poneys will share the stage at the new Cheetah (310 W. 52nd St.) with the Young Savages from Apr. 11th through Apr. 17th.

"Your Own Thing," which played its 100th performance at the Orpheum Theatre last week, has been sold to National General Pictures for \$500,000, plus a % of the gross. The film version of the rock musical will be produced and directed by Stanley Donen. Filming will take place in both New York and London. The score is by Hal Hester and Danny Apolinar.

The Five Stairsteps and Cubie, pictured here with Cecil Holmes of Buddah Records, are currently working their way up the Top 100 with "The Shadow Of Your Love."

Howlin' Wolf opened at the Scene this past Sun. for a 12-night gig. Charles Lloyd follows Wolf at the club Apr. 25-28. Then Traffic comes in for a short stay (3-nights.) Gary Burton, whose group includes jazz guitarist Larry Coryell, will be playing the club from May 20 to June 2. Burton and Coryell first met at the Scene, when Coryell was with a rock group called the Free Spirits.

Received a note saying that the AWK was here. That's Art Wayne, who's been very busy of late handling publishing for Jerry Jeff Walker and working with the Charlotte Russe.

Howard Parker from Tarantula Productions in London infos that Procol Harum will be in the U.S.A. from Apr. 19 to May 16.

Producer Richie Kaye has just had his first effort released on Capitol by These Visitors and called "Happy Man." The group consists of five, four of which are members of the Curtis family. Their father (and manager) Dale Curtis was formerly with radio station WKAM in Goshin, Ind. They have appeared often in the Ohio/Indiana area.

Bell Records is rushing a brand new follow-up record to "La La Means I Love You" by the Delfonics. Although "La La" is still in the top 20 nationally, deejay and distrib. demand has reportedly been so strong that "I'm Sorry" ships immediately.

The American Breed is just back from Fla. where they shot a 1-hour

pilot for Bing Crosby Productions midst sun 'n' fun. Also plenty bikinis. Perhaps it is significant that their new Acta single is "Ready, Willing, And Able"?

Mitch Ryder is going to a wow of a luau this week (13) when he and his Mitch Ryder Show jet to Honolulu for a soul performance at H.I.C. Hall. They'll most likely sock it to the sheltering palms.

Publicist Dick Gersh will tell it like it is to a meeting of the Publicity Club of New York on May 2nd, when he speaks on "The World Of Personalities and Show Business."

Amy-Mala-Bell's Gordon Bossin says that the label is cracking the under-

ground with "The Story Of Simon Simopath" by Nirvana. The entire LP is a sort of science fiction oratorio about a boy living in a six-dimensional city in 1999.

Metro's Barry Resnick says that the Bill Medley "I Can't Make It Alone" deck is taking off throughout New York City as is "Why Say Goodbye" by Connie Francis . . . Chuck Toré is meeting with plenty of success with the "May I" outing on Buddah by the 1910 Fruitgum Company.

Bunky & Jake just played a concert in Woodstock with Ritchie Havens. The Mercury duo will be going into the Garrick Theatre Apr. 18, 19, & 20.

HOLLYWOOD

According to co-manager Sid Garriss there have been, so far, 92 New Christy Minstrels. In other words 83 old Christy Minstrels.

It doesn't sound like Bill Cosby (quoted by NBC-TV's press dept.) but we're partial to the line anyway . . . "I knew a fellow who used to snore so loud he'd wake himself up. He solved the problem—now sleeps in the other room."

Among the more blistering recent LP releases on the coast (all on Music City's top 15) "Steppenwolf" (Dunhill), "The Mashunganishi Yogi" (A&M), Mason Williams' Phonograph Record (Warners). We're most partial to, among this week's releases, "Joni Mitchell" (Reprise), "Bookends" (Simon and Garfunkel on Columbia) and "Randy Newman" (Reprise). All selections composed by the performers. Reminding us of F. S. Fitzgerald's line—"you don't write because you want to say something. You write because you've got something to say."

Months ago we made a little list of our favorite composers. We ranked Newman #1 and Jim Webb just a step behind. The LP only serves to solidify our earlier estimate. Though we're not yet ready to rank Newman among our favorite five vocal talents, his sound is sincere and certainly identifiable. Album could be one of the "sleepers" of '68.

Music City has, incidentally, added a top ten 4 and 8 track cartridge chart—Atco has four titles on this week's list—"Fresh Cream," "Bee Gee's First," "Disraeli Gears" and "Buffalo Springfield."

Just two years ago (almost to the day) our "West Coast Girl of the Week" was Patti Walsh who had just arrived in town from Illinois. We heard her at the Red Velvet and predicted "she'll be cutting for a label within two or three weeks." We were only 100 weeks off target. Her initial single, released just the other day on

Uni, is "Cry a Little Tear (For Me)" b/w "The Room." Her new moniker—Candy Graham.

Alan Handleman tapped as the new publicity and public relations director at Dunhill.

The Byrds firmed for an eleven day tour of S. Africa—leaving here May 26th and stopping off in Italy for seven eves of concertizing.

Capitol's the Human Beinz appearing this week at the Hullabaloo in Dallas. According to A&R producer, Lex De Azevedo, next LP (untitled) will include a ditty called "The Face" which could be their next single.

Jaye P. Morgan, who started her singing career here about a dozen

naders—all competing for fun and prizes! . . . MGM's promo man Chuck Livingston really has his work cut out for him these days, what with prepping for Connie Francis' upcoming Chi visit in behalf of single "Why Say Goodbye" and Bill Medley's 4/15 stop here to plug newie "I Can't Make It Alone"—not to mention the exposure of the new Herman's Hermits deck "Sleepy Joe" and Sam The Sham's "Old MacDonald"! . . . TV star Greg Morris, of the popular Mission Impossible series, will be feted by Dot Records at a cocktail party in the Chippendale Room of the Ambassador West Hotel 4/19. "Greg Morris For You" (Dot) is the title of his newly

years ago, back at work with Ron Kramer and Jack Smiley penning her new nitery act. She'll unveil it at the Sahara Hotel in Tahoe on April 23rd.

Morris Diamond, repping the Sherman Bros.' "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" 13 tune score getting strongest A&R response, we hear, to the tune titled "Husy-A-Bye Mountain."

Michele Lee, starting to spend her days before the Disney cameras for her starring role opposite Dean Jones in "The Love Bug," also rehearsing and cutting her follow up Columbia LP to her chart single "L. David Sloane."

Our "West Coast Girl of the Week" is Lynn Roman, Dot's "Girl for All Reasons" (title of her new LP) scheduled to receive a concentrated ad campaign in consumer and music trades. According to label's ad merchandising director Jack Levy, "Lynn is creating a tremendous fan following, wherever she appears. There's heavy acceptance of her new single 'Here I Am.'" Miss Roman, produced by Dot's east coast A&R topper Gerry Granahan, joined the label's artist roster in late '67.

Ed Forsyth and George Church III, heads of ESI Prod., have set Tommy Faia's next recording session, under an A&M pact, this week at United Recorders. Also signed—Jim Economides to produce and Don McGinnis to arrange the date. ESI also tapped to handle post-production chores on the Alan Arkin film "Popi."

T. E. Ford cutting his 36th LP for Capitol—a Xmas LP . . . Quincy Jones, who recently completed the score for Danny Mann's "For the Love of Ivy," starting work on "The Split" at MGM this week.

Caustic Quote of the Week from Burt Prelutsky, flick reviewer for L.A. Magazine, concerning "Half a Sixpence." It's "one more victim of the devalued pound . . . part of the blame rests with Tommy Steele who is neither talented nor charming. When he sings you assume he must be a gifted dancer—until he starts dancing. Either he works cheap or he has a lot of relatives. Director George Sidney, who has yet to make a good movie, keeps his remarkable record intact."

CHICAGO

Brazilian group The Tamba 4, a smash during their recent initial U. S. engagement in Chi's London House, come back by demand April 17 for a 2-weeker in the club. Group, discoveries of Herb Alpert, have an album on A & M tagged "We And The Sea" . . . Ron Britain's having a ball with his Psychedelic Amateur Hour on WCFL. Competition ranges from Psychedelic Flea Bands to Kazoo Sere-

released album . . . Recent Steed outing "How'd We Ever Get This Way" by Andy Kim is enjoying heavy airplay in this area, according to promo rep Erwin Barg . . . The Serendipity Singers are due in town May 7 for a return engagement in the posh Camel-Morty Wax items that Brother Jack lia House of The Drake hotel . . . McDuff will do a week in the Jamaican Lounge, Columbus, Ohio 5/6 . . . Enzo Stuardi is currently headlining in the Empire Room of the Palmer House . . . The Aorta, who've been traveling the U. S. for the past two months, are demonstrating their new sound at Barnaby's on North State. Three of the group are former members of The Exceptions who recorded for Capitol . . . To meet the demand for reservations, Club Laurel owner George Lucas extended the Buddy Rich 2-nighter to one week! . . . Summit's Bud Stebbins has a load of hot singles to rave about, including Herb Alpert's "Cabaret" (A&M), the new Boyce & Hart outing "Goodbye Baby Goodbye" (A&M), "San Francisco Girls" by the Fever Tree (Uni) and "Can I Carry Your Balloon" by The Swamp Seeds (Epic) . . . The George Shearing Quintet are slated for an upcoming engagement in London House . . . Sig Sakowicz made his yearly trek to Los Angeles to cover the Oscars . . . Mel Torme is appearing in Mister Kelly's through April 28.

Caiola On The Road Pushing 'Scalphunters'

NEW YORK—To spur sales of his newly-released single, "Scalphunters' Theme" (from the UA flick), United Artists' crack guitarist, Al Caiola, is currently on a nationwide tour.

Caiola, who enjoyed a single hit several seasons ago with his recording of "Theme from The Magnificent Seven," has already visited Los Angeles, Denver, Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth and St. Louis. In each market he was met by promotion men for United Artists Music, publisher of "Scalphunters' Theme," as well as distributor promotion men for United Artist Records.

On Thursday (18) following additional visits in the midwest and south, Caiola will return to his winter base, Miami Beach, where he'll play his first engagement at the Crossway Inn. Upon the completion of this date, Caiola will board his 41-foot yacht, Rolex, for the long sail north through the Intracoastal Waterway back to his home in New Jersey. The yacht was the hospitality headquarters during United Artists Records recent 10th anniversary celebration at the Doral Beach Hotel, Miami Beach.